

XXXVII.—Bulletin of the British Ornithologists' Club.

Nos. LXI.—LXIII.

No. LXI. (March 30th, 1899).

THE sixtieth Meeting of the Club was held at the Restaurant Frascati, 32 Oxford Street, on Wednesday, the 15th of March, 1899. *Chairman*: P. L. SCLATER, F.R.S. Twenty-three Members and one guest were present.

DR. BOWDLER SHARPE sent for exhibition a specimen of an Owl from São Paulo, Brazil, which he was at first inclined to refer to a new genus, but which he found, somewhat to his surprise, to be a *Gisella*, allied to *G. harrisi* of Colombia. The specimen in question had been sent to him by Dr. von Jhering for identification, along with other specimens.

The position of the genus *Gisella*, according to Mr. Pycraft's recent classification of the Owls, was not with *Syrnium*, as Dr. Sharpe had placed it in 1875, but nearer to *Nyctala*, as it had been arranged by Messrs. Selater and Salvin in the 'Nomenclator' (p. 116). In plumage the species of *Gisella* were not unlike *Nyctala*, but the two genera were evidently distinct; the asymmetry of the ear-openings, a feature in both, differed in character. The shape of the long aperture was not quite the same in *Gisella* and *Nyctala*; the aperture which is *left* in the ear of *Nyctala* corresponded to that of the *right* in *Gisella*, and *vice versa*. The form of the spinal tract, so far as could be judged from the skin, was similar in the two genera, according to Mr. Pycraft, who had figured that of *Nyctala* in the 'Transactions of the Linnean Society,' (2) vii. pl. 26. fig. 1.

Dr. Sharpe believed that the São Paulo bird was different from *G. harrisi* of Colombia, and proposed for it the name of

GISELLA JHERINGI.

G. similis G. harrisi, sed supracaudalibus maculis ovatis albis ornatis, et caudæ fasciis albis tribus: fasciâ longitudinali auriculari, loris et fasciâ gulari nigerrimis, nec chocolatino-brunneis distinguenda. Long. tot. 9·0 poll., alæ 5·25, caudæ 2·9, tarsi 1·15.

Mr. DIGBY PIGOTT informed the meeting that a Magpie and a Jackdaw had together occupied and repaired an old Magpie's nest in St. James's Park, and that that morning the Jackdaw had been noticed inside the nest with the Magpie in close attendance. He asked whether any Member of the Club was aware of any previous instance of these birds pairing. He had been informed that something of the kind had occurred in Wales, but had heard no particulars.

Mr. W. P. PYCRAFT mentioned that he had recently received from Mr. Frank Finn a specimen of the Blue-throated Barbet (*Cyanops asiatica*) which showed a similar heel-pad to that found in the Wryneck (*Iynx torquilla*). The specimen would be exhibited at the next meeting.

No. LXII. (April 29th, 1899).

THE sixty-first Meeting of the Club was held at the Restaurant Frascati, 32 Oxford Street, on Wednesday, the 19th of April, 1899. *Chairman*: P. L. SCLATER, F.R.S. Twenty Members and four guests were present.

Mr. W. R. OGILVIE GRANT gave an account of his recent journey to Socotra, and exhibited a series of specimens obtained by himself and Dr. H. O. Forbes. Among them were examples of the following new birds, full descriptions of which would appear in the 'Bulletin' of the Liverpool Museum:—*Scops socotranus*, *Caprimulgus jonesi*, *Motacilla forwoodi*, *Fringillariu insularis*, *F. socotrana*, *Passer hemileucus*, and *Phalacrocorax nigrogularis*.

THE HON. WALTER ROTHSCHILD exhibited a stuffed specimen of *Casuarius casuaris sclateri*, shot by Herr Emil Weiske on the Brown River, S.E. New Guinea.

This form had been originally described by Count Salvadori from a specimen which died in the Zoological Gardens about the year 1875. He had afterwards united the species with *Casuarius casuaris beccarii* (Sclater); but the latter was

now known to be confined to Vokau Island, in the Aru group, while *C. c. sclateri* was found all over the south and south-east of New Guinea. The differences of the two forms had been given in 'Novitates Zoologicae,' vol. vi. no. 1, p. 75, and would be further detailed in a 'Monograph of the Cassowaries,' shortly to be published.

Mr. WALTER ROTHSCHILD also exhibited a series of skins of the *P. cinctus* group of the genus *Ptilinopus*, all the species being shown excepting the newly-described *P. alligator*, Collett, of which Mr. Rothschild exhibited a coloured figure. He recognized the following forms:—

P. cinctus. Hab. Timor.

P. albocinctus. Hab. Lombok, Sumbawa.

P. albocinctus baliensis. Hab. Bali.

P. everetti. Hab. Alor, Pantar.

P. lettiensis. Hab. Letti, Dammar, and Babber.

A fine specimen of the wonderful *P. dohertyi* was also brought for exhibition by Mr. Rothschild.

Mr. ROTHSCHILD further exhibited several skins of *Lophophorus refulgens*, and added the following remarks:—

“ In 1893 (Bull. Soc. Zool. Fr. xviii. p. 19) Dr. Oustalet described two Monaul Pheasants as local forms of '*Lophophorus impeyanus*' under the names *L. impeyanus* var. *mantoui* and *L. impeyanus* var. *obscurus*, the former having the copper-coloured neck and head replaced by bright blue, the other having all the metallic parts replaced by deep greenish black. I was at first inclined to consider *L. impeyanus* var. *mantoui* a good species; for I procured three skins, all exactly alike. My suspicions were first aroused by finding in a lot of 3000 ordinary Monaul skins one specimen of *L. impeyanus* with a dull bronze-coloured neck, one *L. impeyanus mantoui*, and two semi-albino birds. My doubts as to these forms were settled on receiving a black Monaul killed by an English sportsman out of a flock of four, together with a cock and three hens of the ordinary Monaul. Mr. Grant, in vol. xxii. of the 'Catalogue of Birds,' says that *Lophophorus refulgens*, Temm., is the correct name for

the Common Monaul; so I am obliged to record all the skins exhibited as varieties of *Lophophorus refulgens*."

Mr. HARTERT exhibited specimens of *Geocichla peroni* and of a nearly related new species of Thrush which he named

GEOCICHLA AUDACIS, sp. nov.

Similar to *G. peroni* of Timor, but with the upper surface more uniform and of a much deeper chestnut-rufous colour; chest and sides of body darker and more chestnut-rufous than in *G. peroni*; wing shorter, not more than 102–104 mm., while it is at least 110 in *G. peroni*. ♂ and ♀ not materially different.

Hab. Dammar Island, in the south of the Banda Sea. Collected by Heinrich Kühn.

Mr. HARTERT also showed a pair of *Erythrura forbesi* from Dammar. This species was hitherto only known from the type specimen in the British Museum, from the Tenimber Islands.

Mr. SCLATER stated that he had been staying in the Riviera during the past four weeks, and wished to call attention to the appalling deficiency of bird-life in that otherwise charming country. Although out every day on the hills round Cannes and Nice, and always on the look-out, he had seen but very few birds, and those mostly of the commonest sorts and always shy and timid. Even Sparrows were only occasionally to be met with. In the beautifully kept gardens of the villas not a bird's note was to be heard, and very rarely was a single Tit or Robin to be seen. Mr. Sclater attributed this scarcity of birds (which was deplorable, not only from an æsthetic but still more from an economical point of view) to the prevalence of the "chasse" during the autumn and winter months and to the sale of small birds of every sort for food in the markets; and expressed a hope that every Member of the B.O.U. would do all he could to shelter and protect bird-life in the country, lest we should fall into the same condition.

MR. ROTHSCHILD also made some remarks on the few birds recently observed by him near Bordighera.

MR. SCLATER had, curiously enough, found in the bird-shop of Peracino, at Cannes, four examples of a bird which he had never seen alive before—the Masked Hawfinch (*Coccothraustes personatus*) of Japan—and had purchased them for the Zoological Society for a trifling sum. Mr. Sclater exhibited two of these birds in their cage to the meeting.

MR. E. BIDWELL exhibited a new field-glass, which he considered to be likely to prove of great service to ornithologists.

MR. HARTERT made some remarks on the system of labelling birds adopted in the Tring Museum, drawing particular attention to the red label which was used for the easy identification of typical specimens.

MR. H. J. ELWES made some very interesting remarks on birds observed by him during his expedition to the Altai Mountains, with especial reference to the boundary-lines of the Eastern and Western Palæarctic Region.

MR. L. W. WIGLESWORTH sent the following note to the meeting :—

“*Pachycephala chlorura*, Gray, of the New Hebrides, belongs to a group of *Pachycephalæ* in which the coloration of the sexes differs considerably, and the female was described as an *Eopsaltria* by Gray and named by him (B. Trop. Is. 1859, p. 21) *Eopsaltria cucullata*, from a single specimen in the British Museum obtained by Macgillivray in Aneiteum Island.

“A similar mistake by Verreaux & Des Murs has been pointed out by Dr. Oustalet (Bull. Soc. Philom. Paris, 1879, p. 219) in the case of *Eopsaltria caledonica* (Gm.) and *Pachycephala morariensis*, Verr. & Des M., of New Caledonia, the former name having been given to a female

(or young male, which is very like the female), the latter name to the adult male. This species should therefore be called *Pachycephala caledonica* (Gm.). Both *Eopsaltria cucullata* and *Pachycephala morariensis* are erroneously allowed to rank as valid species by Dr. Gadow in the 'Catalogue of Birds,' viii. 1883, pp. 179, 199, and by Wigglesworth in 'Aves Polynesiae,' 1891, pp. 27, 29."

Two photographs of the specimen of *Euplocomus andersoni*, Elliot (now in the Calcutta Museum), were sent for exhibition by Mr. FRANK FINN, who considered this example to be the type of the species.

No. LXIII. (May 31st, 1899).

THE sixty-second Meeting of the Club was held at the Restaurant Frascati, 32 Oxford Street, on Wednesday, the 17th of May, 1899. *Chairman*: P. L. SCLATER, F.R.S. Twenty Members and four guests were present.

Mr. OGILVIE GRANT sent the description of a new species of Hill-Partridge, discovered by Mr. C. B. Rickett in the hills of Kuatun in Fohkien. This species Mr. Grant proposed to call

ARBORICOLA RICKETTI, sp. n.

A. similis A. gingica, sed fronte et superciliis albis distinguenda. Long. tot. 10·5 poll., culm. 0·9, alæ 5·7, caudæ 2·1, tarsi 1·6.

Hab. Hachong and Yamakan, Fohkien.

Mr. RICKETT sent the description of a new species of Trogon, obtained by him on the same expedition to Kuatun:—

HARPACTES YAMAKANENSIS, sp. n.

H. similis H. erythrocephalo, sed suprâ magis olivascenti-brunneus, pileo quoque olivascenti-brunneo distinguendus. Long. tot. 13·3 poll., culm. 0·75, alæ 6·2, caudæ 6·8, tarsi 0·8.

Hab. Yamakan, Fohkien.

Mr. BOYD ALEXANDER gave an account of his recent expedition to the Zambesi River and its tributaries. Amongst a number of specimens of interesting species obtained by him, the following were pointed out as some of the more remarkable:—*Chætura stictilæma*, *Erythropyygia zambesiana*, *E. quadrivirgata*, *Cossypha natalensis*, *C. heuglini*, *Pinarornis plumosus*, *Nicator gularis*, *Dryoscopus sticturus*, *Erythrocerus francisci*, *Saxicola falckensteini*, *Campothera bennetti*, *Glaucidium capense*, *Macronyx wintoni*, *Glareola emini*, and *Locustella fluviatilis*.

The following species were described by Mr. Alexander as new:—

SYLVIELLA PALLIDA, sp. n.

Most nearly allied to *Sylviella leucopsis*, Reichenow, the typical examples of which were obtained at Malindi. The British Museum possesses a male and female of the typical *S. leucopsis* from the neighbouring island of Manda, and I have compared my specimens with these. From *S. leucopsis* the Zambesi specimens differ in the following particulars:—The upper parts are uniform grey, *not* washed with greenish; the bill is larger, and is *black*, not *brown*. Superciliary stripe, chin, throat, cheeks, and fore-neck, as well as the centre of the breast and belly, white, tinged with buff; the sides and flanks more distinctly washed with the latter colour.

♂. Culmen 0·45 inch, wing 2·3, tail 1, tarsus 0·75.

♀. Wing 2·1 inches.

Hab. Zambesi River.

EREMOMELA HELENORÆ, sp. n.

Most nearly allied to *E. polioxantha*, but differs in the following particulars:—It is smaller; the feathers of the rump are olive-yellow, not ashy grey, washed with olive; the secondaries tipped with white; axillaries ashy white, not yellow; under tail-coverts white; feathers of thighs dusky, tipped with white. The tail is considerably shorter than in *E. polioxantha*. Upper mandible brown, lower one horn-colour; tarsus black; iris orange. Total length (measured in flesh) 3·56 inches, culmen 0·5, wing 2·1, tail 1·18, tarsus 0·6.

Hab. Mesanangue, Zambesi River.

CISTICOLA MUELLERI, sp. n.

Closely allied to *C. dodsoni*, Sharpe, but differs in the following particulars:—It is somewhat larger, and does not possess the broad sub-terminal band of black on the tail-feathers, as in *C. dodsoni*. The tail-feathers have no broad white tips, and, with the exception of the two centre ones, which are of a uniform brown, they possess a narrow dusky sub-terminal marking under certain lights on their inner webs only.

Adult female. Wing 1·82 inch, culmen 0·4, tail 1·6.

Named in memory of Mr. Müller, who commanded the rear-guard of Major Gibbons's Expedition, and who died at Tete.

Mr. ROBERT H. READ read some extracts from a letter received by him from Dr. Cuthbert Christy, on some of the birds of the Upper Niger.

The Hon. WALTER ROTHSCHILD sent descriptions of two new sub-species of Cassowaries, from examples living in the Zoological Garden at Berlin:—

CASUARIUS PICTICOLLIS HECKI, subsp. n.

This bird bears the same relationship to *C. picticollis* that *C. papuanus edwardsi* does to *C. papuanus*. The throat and hind-neck are deep indigo-blue. Occiput pale greenish blue. A small round black wattle on the fore-neck. Lower sides of neck dark crimson. Casque and plumage similar to those of *C. picticollis*.

Hab. German New Guinea.

This form is named in honour of Dr. Heck, Director of the Zoological Garden in Berlin.

CASUARIUS UNIAPPENDICULATUS AURANTIACUS, subsp. n.

Face, cheeks, and occiput pale sky-blue; throat dark blue. Occipital patch, fore-neck, hind-neck, and lower sides of the neck deep reddish orange. Casque horny green, and much more compressed laterally than in *C. uniappendiculatus*. Long check-wattles absent; but the sides of face distended, as in *C. philipi*.

Hab. German New Guinea.

Mr. J. L. BONNOTE exhibited some specimens of birds recently obtained by him in the Bahamas, amongst which were examples of *Pyrranga æstiva*, *Protonotaria citrea*, and *Vireo olivaceus*, species not previously recorded from New Providence.

The following new species was described in a communication received from Mr. F. J. JACKSON :—

PŒOPTERA GREYI, sp. n.

- ♂. Similis *P. lugubri*, sed caudâ minùs acuminatâ et alis nigris purpurco paullò micantibus, remigibus haud pallidè brunneo marginatis: corpore haud purpurascete et vix violaceo: gutture magis chalybeo. Long. tot. 8·0 poll., culm. 0·75, alæ 4·1, caudæ 3·25, tarsi 0·8.
- ♀. A mari differt more generis *Pæopterae*. Griseoescenti-viridis, remigibus intùs castaneis. Long. tot. 7·8 poll., culm. 0·7, alæ 3·95, caudæ 3·2, tarsi 0·8.

Hab. Nandi, Equatorial Africa.

Mr. R. J. USSHER gave a most interesting exhibition of relics which he had discovered in the kitchen-middens on the coast of Waterford. In addition to the remains of red deer, oxen, domestic fowl, &c., the series of bones of the Great Auk (*Alca impennis*) which were exhibited tended to prove that in former times the latter species must have bred in this part of Ireland.

Mr. SCLATER exhibited another series of beautiful photographs of Australian birds' nests and eggs, which had been transmitted to him by Mr. D. Le Souëf, of Melbourne, and were partly intended to illustrate some notes of Mr. Le Souëf's to be published in the next number of 'The Ibis.' Among these, special attention was called to the photographs of the nest and eggs of the Northern Oriole (*Oriolus affinis*), of the Black-faced Wood-Swallow (*Artamus melanops*), and of the Northern Thickhead (*Pachycephala falcata*).

Mr. SCLATER exhibited a mounted specimen of a hybrid between a male Guinea-fowl and a domestic hen, which he

had received alive as a present from Dr. Goeldi, of Pará (see P. Z. S. 1898, p. 348), and the anatomy of which would be described by Mr. Beddard in the next number of 'The Ibis.' Such hybrids were said to be not uncommon at Ceará in Brazil, whence the present specimen was obtained, and to be known by the name of "Tahý."

XXXVIII.—*Notices of recent Ornithological Publications.*

[Continued from p. 329.]

61. *Agassiz's Report on the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard.*

[Annual Report of the Curator of the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard College to the President and Fellows of Harvard College for 1897-98. 8vo. Cambridge, U.S.A., 1898.]

From this Report we regret to learn that Prof. Alexander Agassiz resigned his long-held office of Director of the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard College, Cambridge, U.S.A., at the close of last year. Mr. Agassiz has presented to that Institution all his collections and papers deposited there, with conditions of free access to them during his life. He does not seem at all satisfied with the future prospects of the Museum, believing that the "Natural-History Museums of New York and Chicago, connected as they are with municipalities which deal with them in a most generous and intelligent manner, will soon leave far behind a University Museum depending upon resources which grow annually less with painful regularity." The Department of Mammals and Birds in the Museum, which is presided over by Mr. William Brewster, is stated to have had an "uneventful" year.

62. *Annals of Scottish Natural History.*

[The Annals of Scottish Natural History, a Quarterly Magazine, with which is incorporated 'The Scottish Naturalist.' No. 29, January 1899, and No. 30, April 1899.]

In the January issue of this quarterly, a list of the birds of the Ballinluig district, Perthshire, by Mr. Bruce Campbell,